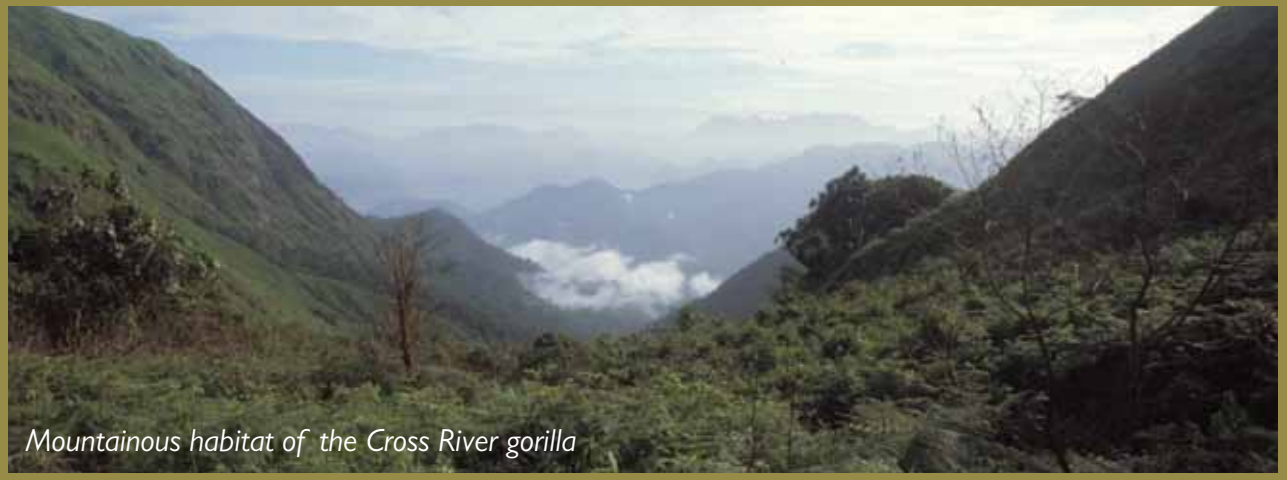
software package automatically maps their patrol route, along with relevant observations like gorilla sightings and evidence of illegal activity. Using this information, park managers can better understand where to target ranger patrols and identify key habitat for the gorillas. The system helps protect not only the Cross River gorilla, but all the other wildlife that share the gorillas' forest home as well.

Working Across the Entire Range of the Gorillas and Beyond

The Cross River gorillas have proven difficult to conserve since they are found across a large landscape spanning two different countries. The NC Zoo has therefore put the Cybertracker system in place at multiple sites across the gorillas' range. Between 2009 and 2010 we trained over 200 rangers and researchers in Nigeria and Cameroon to use the Cybertracker devices and provided 25 of the devices themselves. Data ccollected using the devices is already helping make conservation of the gorillas more effective and has been so successful that we have expanded the system to other conservation projects in the region.

Dr. Bergl trains rangers and researchers in Cameroon to use the hand-held computer system.



Mountainous habitat of the Cross River gorilla

Staff Profile: Dr. Rich Bergl

Dr. Rich Bergl, the Curator of Conservation and Research at the North Carolina Zoo, has been conducting conservation-related research in Africa for over ten years. Rich has done fieldwork in Nigeria, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Uganda and Kenya and has worked in genetics labs at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology and New York University. He is an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Evolutionary Anthropology at Duke University and at the North Carolina State College of Veterinary Medicine. In 2010 was named a Fellow at the Wildlife Conservation Society. In addition to his work on animal populations in the wild, Rich oversees research conducted at the NC Zoo.